IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-5 as follows:

1. (Amended) [This is a] A dot matrix display device [wherein] having multiple lines of scanning electrodes and multiple lines of signal electrodes are arranged interlacing in a matrix form, and in which the display elements at each intersecting point of the matrix are driven by means of a voltage between the [above-mentioned] scanning electrodes and the [above-mentioned] signal electrodes, comprising:

[and is a dot matrix display device wherein] rectifying elements [are] electrically connected in the direction of a prescribed polarity between the [above-mentioned] scanning electrodes and a reference voltage terminal that applies a prescribed reference potential, and the load on the [above-mentioned] scanning electrodes is discharged to the [above-mentioned] reference voltage terminal side through the medium of the [above-mentioned] rectifying elements.

2. (Amended) A dot matrix display device [recorded in] of Claim 1 [having;] comprising:

switches that are connected in series with the [above-mentioned] rectifying elements between the [above-mentioned] scanning electrodes and the [above-mentioned] reference voltage terminal, and

a switch control means that places the [above-mentioned] switches in the ON state only for a prescribed time in the interval in which a drive voltage is applied to the [above-mentioned] scanning electrodes.

3. (Amended) A dot matrix display device [recorded in] of Claim 1 [having;] comprising:

a scanning electrode drive circuit [means] that sequentially drives with a prescribed reference drive voltage the [above-mentioned] plurality of scanning electrodes at a constant horizontal scanning cycle,

a signal electrode drive [means] circuit that drives the [above-mentioned] multiple lines of signal electrodes in response to the respective corresponding signals at each cycle of the [above-mentioned] horizontal scanning,

switches that are connected in series with the [above-mentioned] rectifying elements between the [above-mentioned] scanning electrodes and the [above-mentioned] reference voltage terminal, and

a switch [control means] <u>controller</u> that places the [above-mentioned] switches in the ON state only in a prescribed time during the scanning drive period for each horizontal scanning period.

4.   (Amended) A dot matrix display device [recorded in any one of Claims 1 to 3 having] <u>of Claim 1</u> comprising a constant current source circuit that is connected in series with the [above-mentioned] rectifying elements between the [above-mentioned] scanning electrodes and the [above-mentioned] reference voltage terminal.

5.   (Amended) A dot matrix display device [recorded in any one of Claims 1 to 4] <u>of Claim 1</u> wherein the [above-mentioned] display elements are made up of light emitting diodes, and a portion of the [above-mentioned] display elements functions as the [above-mentioned] rectifying elements.

Please add new claims 6-11 as follows:

--6.   A dot matrix display device of Claim 2 comprising a constant current source circuit that is connected in series with the rectifying elements between the scanning electrodes and the reference voltage terminal.

7.   A dot matrix display device of Claim 3 comprising a constant current source circuit that is connected in series with the rectifying elements between the scanning electrodes and the reference voltage terminal.

8.   A dot matrix display device of Claim 2 wherein the display elements are made up of light emitting diodes, and a portion of the display elements functions as the rectifying elements.

9.   A dot matrix display device of Claim 3 wherein the display elements are made up of light emitting diodes, and a portion of the display elements functions as the rectifying elements.

10.   A dot matrix display device of Claim 4 wherein the display elements are made up of light emitting diodes, and a portion of the display elements functions as the rectifying elements.

11.   A dot matrix display device of Claim 5 wherein the display elements are made up of light emitting diodes, and a portion of the display elements functions as the rectifying elements.--